THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The number of operational units in the six Export processing Zones is indicated below:

| Name of the Zone | No. of units in operation |
|---|---|
| Kandla Free Trade Zone (KAFTZ) | 79 |
| Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) | 121 |
| Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ) | 88 |
| Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ) | 53 |
| Cochin Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) | 29 |
| Falta Export Processing Zone (FEPZ) | 13 |
| TOTAL : | 383 |

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the Export Processing Zones and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Rubber India 2000 Project**

2142. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a Rs. 445 crore 'Rubber India 2000' project; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and at what stage of consideration is the project at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No. Sir. Government have not drawn up a Rs. 445 crore 'Rubber India 2000' project. However, a perspective plan has been drawn up to achieve self-sufficiency in production of natural rubber subject to availability of funds. This plan includes the following strategies to augment the production of natural rubber in the country:—

(i) Expand the area under rubber cultivation by bringing more and more non-traditional regions under plantation.

(ii) Speed-up replantation of old and low yielding areas with modern high yielding cultivators.

(iii) Raise productivity of existing mature plantations by popularising adoption of modern technology.

This comprehensive perspective plan involves an outlay of Rs. 270 crores between the period 1992-93 to 1996-97. The plan outlay for the current year 1993-94 is Rs. 42.38 crores which includes a foreign aid component of Rs. 16.41 crores.

In order to achieve the target as set out by the perspective plan and to augment the availability of funds, the Rubber Board has recently finalised a comprehensive project with the World Bank with a total foreign aid of US $ 92.0 Million. This project is likely to commence after necessary protocols are signed during the current year. After the implementation of the World Bank Project by 1997-98, possibilities can be explored by the Rubber Board to finance the rest of the schemes as envisaged in the perspective plan to achieve self-sufficiency.

**Recognition of Export Houses**

2143. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the export limit for recognition of export houses, trading and star trading houses;

(b) what is the criteria for setting up of export limits in each case;

(c) whether it is a fact that the exporter have demanded for lowering the enhanced limit for recognition of export houses of various nomenclature, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government to the demand of exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The export limits for recognition of export house.